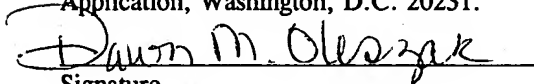


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Inventor(s): David R. Zittel, Steven W. Hughes, and Daniel D. Maupin

Invention: *Method for Processing Food Product*

**Preliminary Amendment, Status of Claims, and  
Support for Claim Changes**

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows: